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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/662,414	09/14/2000	Kirk Beach	3730-915	9962

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EXAMINER

ABDI, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/662,414

Applicant(s)

BEACH ET AL.

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6 and 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-42 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 13, 20, 32, 37, 40, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: it is not clear to the examiner what purpose the first communication serves as it is stated in all the claims mentioned above “determining whether the voucher token is valid, using the information, wherein the cashier’s station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the querying step uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.” What is the role of the first communication link compelling the cashier’s station to the backroom computer? It seems that a step in the claim is missing. Clarification by applicant is requested.

4. Therefore claims 2-12, 21-37, 40-41 being dependent on independent claims mentioned above are rejected based on the same rationale.

5. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim does not specifically point out to any particular limitations that might be considered to be of inventive steps. Additionally, Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) being anticipated by Kirk Beach et al. U.S.

Patent No. 6,116402.

8. As for claims 1, 13, 20, 32, 37, 38, 40, and 42, Beach clearly teaches a system and method for verifying a voucher or token, comprising;

- means for recording a code associated with the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29);
- a voucher or token database which stores at least one of a code and a value associated with the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29);
- recording a code and a value associated with the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29);
- means for scanning the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29);
- means for querying a voucher or token database for information associated with the code (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29);
- means for determining whether the voucher or token is valid. Using the information, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but

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the querying means uses a second communication link different from the first communication link (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

- wherein the second communication link couples together the voucher or token database and the recognition subsystem (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- verifying the value associated with the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

9. As for claims 2-12, and 21-31 and 41, Beach clearly teaches all the limitations of claims 1, and 20, further;

Beach teaches,

- providing a coin counting mechanism which is configured to receive, all at once, a plurality of randomly oriented coins of multiple denominations and other objects, discriminate the coins and output the voucher or token for an amount related to the value of the coins.
- the scanning step is performed with a recognition subsystem (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the recording step includes recording a value associated with the code (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the querying step includes querying a kiosk which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3,

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lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

- the recording step is performed in a remote location from the kiosk (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the querying step includes querying a control center which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the querying step is performed by a recognition subsystem (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the voucher or token includes at least one of a magnetic strip, a bar code or a smart card.
- the voucher or token is at least one of a phone card, a gift certificate, a mass transit pass, a travel ticket, a financial instrument and an event ticket (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- printing the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- counting coins with a coin counting mechanism in a kiosk, wherein at least a part of the database is located in the kiosk (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

10. As for claims 14-21, Beach clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 13, further;

Beach teaches,

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- the code associated with a voucher or token is unique (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the voucher or token database stores a value associated with the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the transceivers communicate with at least one of the following techniques: wireless, carrier current, data over telephone voice systems and direct-wired communication (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- a modem coupled to the recognition subsystem for electronic verification of the voucher or token (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- a kiosk which includes a coin counting mechanism and wherein at least a part of the voucher or token database is located in the kiosk (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the system is not coupled to a point of sale system (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

11. As for claims 33-46, Beach clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 32, further;

Beach teaches,

- the code contains at least a modem number of an issuing kiosk (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 5, lines 6-54, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

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- the code is related to at least one of a printed voucher or token or a preexisting card (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 5, lines 6-54, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- recording a residual value associated with the code after the redeeming step (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 5, lines 6-54, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).
- the reading step is performed with at least one of a card reader, a smartcard reader and a bar code scanner (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 5, lines 6-54, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

12. As for claim 39, Beach clearly teaches all the limitations of claim 38, further;
Beach teaches,

- the recognition subsystem is located at the cashier's station (See Beach abstract, figures 1, 2C, and 5, and associated text, column 3, lines 1-62, column 5, lines 6-54, column 6, lines 2-20, column 7, lines 38-45, column 10, lines 14-23, and column 11, lines 1-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claim 42 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. Kirk Beach et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,116402.

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15. As for claim 42, while Beach discloses all the limitations of claim 42, further;

By applicants own admission on the "back ground" section of the specifications pages 1-3 it has been disclosed all the alleged inventive steps of the current claim 42 in the application. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to drive the inventive steps from what it was well known at the time of the invention by the applicants own disclosures in the background section of the specification.

Conclusion

16. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3364. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Application/Control Number: 09/662,414

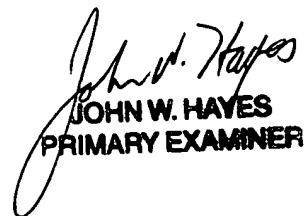
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Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

**Abdi/K
September 29, 2003**


**JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER**